



The President's Daily Brief

23 June 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Cambodia is discussed on *Page 1*.

North Korea

(*Page 3*)

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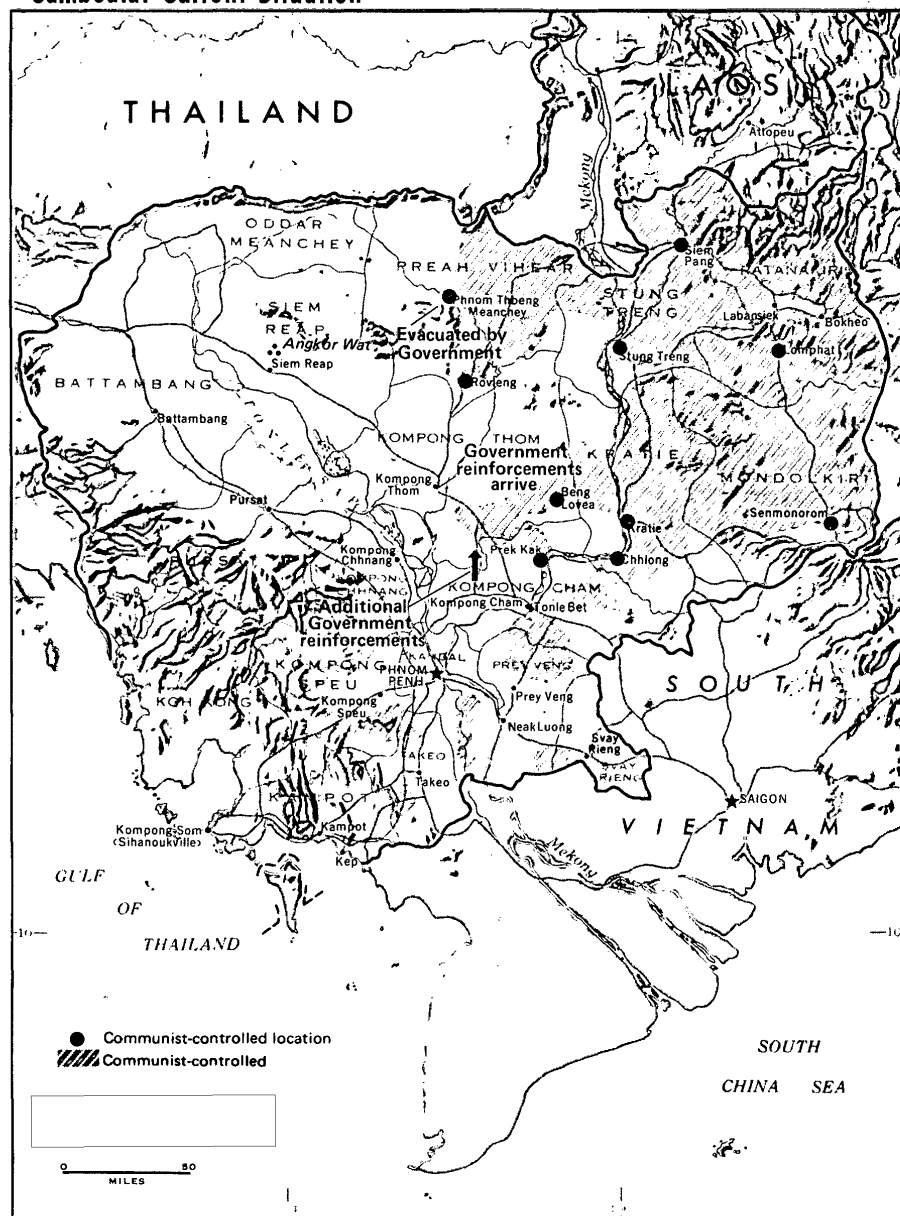
In Italy, the four parties of the national coalition are divided over whether the Socialist Party has the right to form two regional governments with the Communists. (*Page 4*)

Opposition elements are taking advantage of charges that Turkish Prime Minister Demirel used his high office to influence personal financial gains. (*Page 5*)

The Soviets are testing the short-range capabilities of the modified SS-11 ICBM. (*Page 6*)

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Cambodia: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Kompong Thom and Kompong Cham continue to receive Communist harassing fire. Allied air support and the arrival of a battalion of Cambodian Army reinforcements have improved the government's military situation at Kompong Thom. Additional government reinforcements are still en route to Kompong Thom from the south. Large Communist troop concentrations remain in position near Kompong Cham, however, and more fighting is likely. Tonle Bet town is still in the hands of Khmer Krom troops, and fighting there apparently has ebbed.

Communist military activity in several southern provinces appears to be intensifying again. There are reports of large enemy troop concentrations in Takeo, Kandal, and Prey Veng. An intercepted police message indicates the Communists are still planning to interdict Route 1, on the west side of the Mekong, near the Neak Luong ferry. In Prey Veng Province, the Communists reportedly are establishing arms caches and training sites near the capital.

Lon Nol and some of his senior military officers remain concerned over the enemy threat to Phnom Penh. [redacted] some army officers believe Communist troops west of the capital are now working their way toward Phnom Penh to link up with other enemy forces converging on the city from the north. Lon Nol recently decided to strengthen the capital's defenses by recalling two battalions stationed in Kampot Province.

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The government lost more ground and another provincial capital to the Communists on 20 June, when Cambodian troops evacuated Phnom Thbeng Mean-chey in Preah Vihear Province. [redacted]

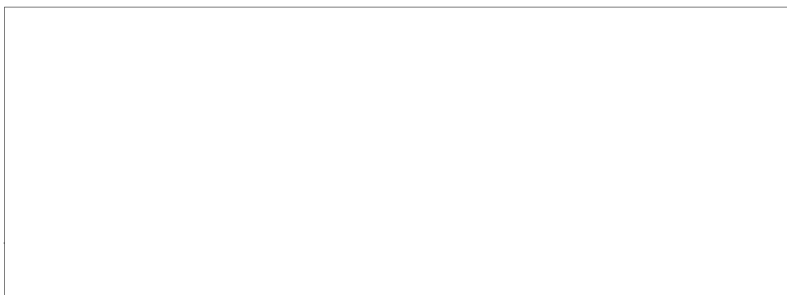
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[redacted] The Communists can be expected to occupy the capital, raising the number of provincial capitals under their control to five.

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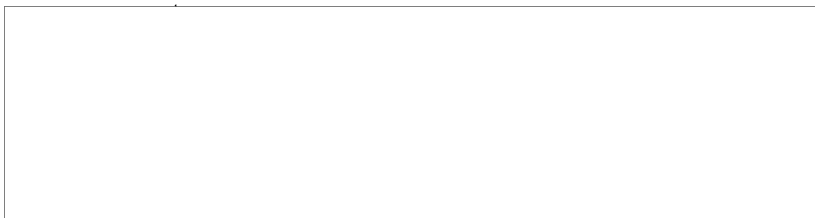
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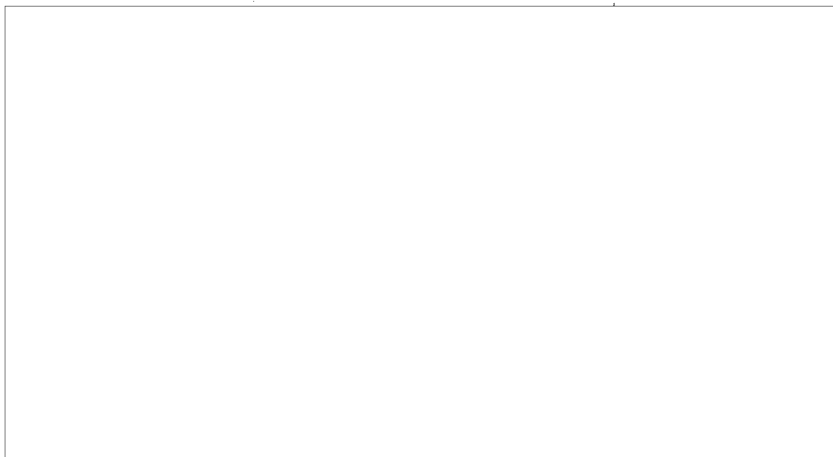
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The government has apparently decided to open an information office in Paris to counter pro-Sihanouk activity there. Sihanouk's "minister of special missions," Chau Seng, is already well established in Paris. He is a capable and effective spokesman, and Phnom Penh will be hard pressed to match him.

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NORTH KOREA



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An explosion at South Korea's National Cemetery outside Seoul yesterday may be related to the Korean War anniversary. Each year on 25 June either President Pak Chong-hui or the prime minister leads a ceremony to mark the anniversary of the Korean War in front of the main gate of the cemetery where the explosion occurred. A body, tentatively identified as that of a North Korean agent, was found at the scene, and South Korean authorities believe he was killed by the premature detonation of a time bomb being rigged to go off during Thursday's ceremony. An attempt on Pak's life was made during the January 1968 "Blue House" raid.

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ITALY

The four ruling center-left parties are bickering over the composition of the regional governments of Tuscany and Umbria. Last week the Socialist Party directorate unanimously re-endorsed the four-party agreement reached earlier this year permitting a Socialist-Communist coalition in regional and local governments when the center-left lacks a majority. This agreement purposely was left vague during the formation of the present national coalition government and has been loosely interpreted by each party.

The Christian Democrats, for example, are deeply divided over the issue. Two of the party's left-wing factions, as well as the followers of moderate Foreign Minister Moro, support the Socialist position, but a large number of Christian Democrats, including those allied with Senate President Fanfani, object. In addition, the anti-Communist Unitary Socialist Party is threatening to cause a national government crisis over the issue.

This issue will be the topic of considerable heated discussions before the installation of the regional governments in early July. Despite the threats, none of the ruling parties wants to force another national government crisis. One possible compromise would allow the Socialists to support, but not join, the Communists in governing these two regions. The Communists can dominate the government of a third region, Emilia-Romagna, without Socialist support.

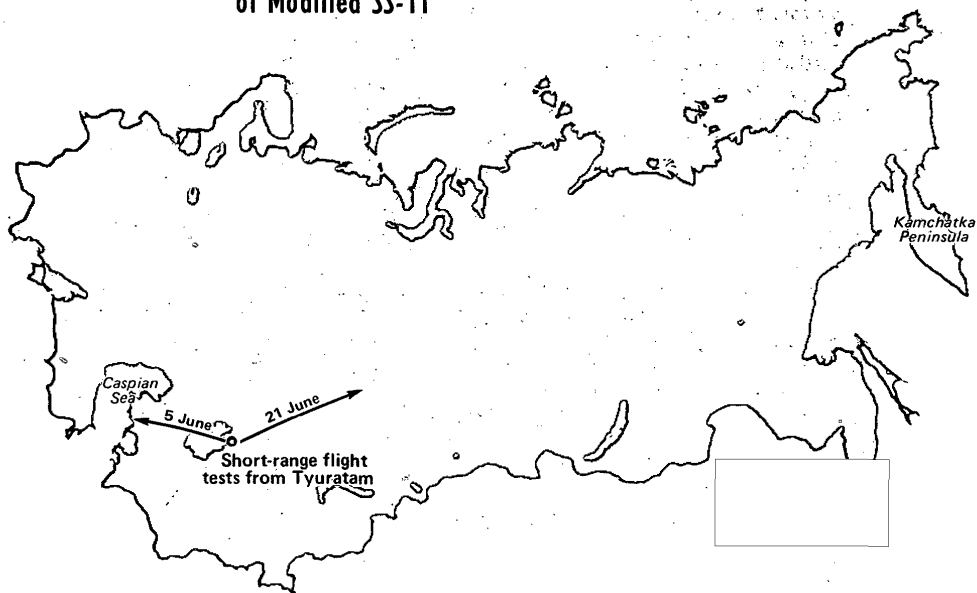
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TURKEY

Prime Minister Demirel, his government already rocked by labor unrest that brought martial law to two provinces, now may have to face a parliamentary investigation of his personal financial manipulations. A new investigating committee is expected to be formed tomorrow at a joint session of Parliament to look into allegations that Demirel has used executive influence for personal gain. It will have 30 days to report back to Parliament, which must then decide whether to recommend a court trial.

Earlier Demirel appeared to be out of the woods on this problem when Parliament acted to dissolve another committee that was looking into his financial dealings, but the Constitutional Court nullified the action. In the wake of that decision, opposition elements have stepped up their campaign for Demirel's immediate resignation. If the question of whether or not to press for court action against Demirel comes to a vote, the 38 dissident members of his own Justice Party would hold the balance, and the tally could be very close.

Soviets Test Short-range Capabilities of Modified SS-11



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NOTE

USSR: The Soviets have made two short-range flight tests of the modified SS-11 ICBM on 5 and 21 June. The firing on 5 June was an unprecedented westerly launch from the Tyuratam test center. The latest firing was to a range of about 625 miles, but was to the east toward the normal impact area at Kamchatka. The modified SS-11 has a maximum range of about 6,500 miles, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There have now been 17 tests of this system, which probably will be ready for deployment late this year.

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